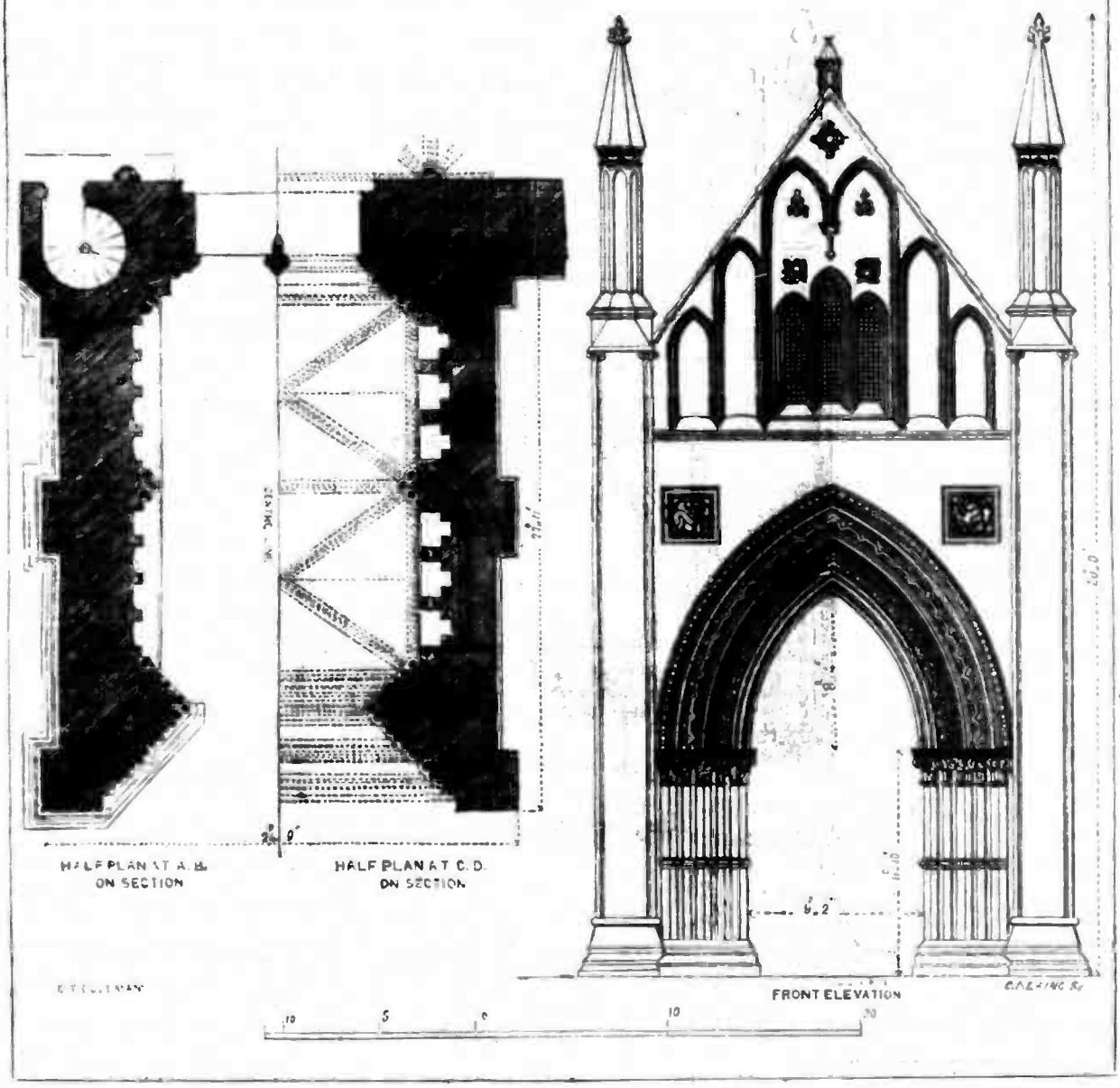
NORTH PORCH, WELLS CATHEDRAL.

A.D. 1225 TO 1239.



is found necessary to effect it, the slightest impulse from the hand being sufficient.

In respect of warming and ventilating the building, very considerable pains have been taken by the architect, and the arrangement seems calculated to answer both purposes well.

A large bed of hot-water pipes is formed beneath the lower range of seats, heated by a contiguous furnace; and all the fresh air, which is supplied to the building by a fine opening to the external atmosphere, passes over these pipes, and enters the theatre by gratings beneath the seats at various elevations. The furnace is so arranged as to be able to obtain its supply of air only from two upright shafts at the back of the theatre, which open immediately under the ceiling, and thus remove, as by a pump, all the vitiated air.

The apparatus for warming was erected by Messrs. Benham and Son; the general works were executed by Mr. M. Timpson, the builder.

The façade in Regent-street is 86 feet long, and nearly 60 feet high. It is in character an Italian composition of the Palazzi kind, but with Grecian details; the architect aiming at greater simplicity and breadth than was otherwise obtainable. The whole is surmounted by the stone figure of Minerva, which formed part of the previous front, and was executed by Mr. E. E. Papworth, a pupil of Mr. Bailey, R.A.

The total cost will probably not be less than from 10,000*l.* to 12,000*l.* Great credit is due to the directors for their spirited endeavours to meet the demands of the public,—especially to Mr. Mountford Nurse, as the prime mover in so important an undertaking, having for its object the capabilities of affording, in the most efficient manner, popular illustrations in every department of science.

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THE accompanying engravings illustrate the north porch of Wells Cathedral, an exceedingly interesting specimen of the Early pointed style. They comprise a plan of the porch, at two stages, an elevation and section. This porch, in common with the whole of the western portion of the cathedral, was built by Bishop Joceline de Welles, between the year 1225 and October, 1239, when it was dedicated. It retains some of the characteristics of the preceding style, walls of considerable thickness, shallow buttresses, and zig-zag mouldings: so much so, indeed, that Britton, in his "History and Description" of the cathedral, is disposed to ascribe it to an earlier period than that named,—the evidence, however, is conclusive.*

In our fourth volume will be found various illustrations of parts of this cathedral, Sugar's chantry (p. 102 and p. 104), Priest's door, Ladye chapel (p. 307), Stall ends (p. 391), and Litany desk (p. 403); and, in the fifth volume, a view of the Vicar's-close (p. 338), as well as some notices of the restorations, which are now again going on. Mr. Ferrey, in whose hands they were, has resigned the appointment, in consequence of a difference of opinion in respect of some of the arrangements.

MOSAIC OF THE MIDDLE AGES.—Mr. Digby Wyatt announces an illustrated work on the geometrical mosaic of the middle ages: the specimens to be set forth in chromo-lithography, to give the exact appearance of the originals. An interesting paper on mosaic by this gentleman will be found in our fifth volume, page 537.

* Mr. Britton's interesting History has been lately reprinted in a cheap form by Green, of Wells (Rivington, London), as a hand-book for visitors. Many of our readers will be rejoiced to hear that Mr. Britton has recovered from a most serious attack of illness, after his medical attendants had declared his case hopeless, and is now as energetic and active as ever. He is again at work on the auto-biography, to which the subscribers to his testimonial are entitled.

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